

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 31, 2006 from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,937,993 to Gabbita et al. (hereinafter "Gabbita"). Applicant respectfully provides the following:

Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 23, and 24 are currently amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

M.P.E.P. 2131 sets forth the standard for a rejection of a claim as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102. "To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim."

M.P.E.P. 2131 states further,

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). . . . "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicant respectfully submits that the reference(s) cited by the Examiner fail to teach every element of the claim set as provided herein for the following reasons.

Claims 1, 9, 16, 23, and 24 have been amended to include a limitation originally contained in claim 8, namely "wherein once the first service provider has completed the first task and the second service provider has been instructed to begin the second task, the first service provider's access to the computer readable medium through the global computer network becomes limited." Applicant respectfully submits that this limitation is not taught by the cited reference. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 relying on Gabbita's disclosure in column 5 lines 52-65. However, this portion of Gabbita does not disclose limiting access to the

workflow system described in Gabbita, nor does any other portion of Gabbita disclose such limitation, let alone the specific limitation claimed occurring once one service provider has completed one task and another service provider has been instructed to begin a second task.

The cited portion of Gabbita merely discloses a Resource Module that assigns “Resources” (such as “computer systems, organizations, or individuals”) to workflow steps in a work plan. (Col 5 lines 60-65) The mere assigning of resources to complete a process does not teach limiting access to a process participant once a particular portion of the process is completed by that process participant and a second process participant has been instructed to begin a second portion of the process, as is required by the claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Gabbita fails to teach every element of claims 1, 9, 16, 23, and 24 as is required to maintain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and therefore fails to anticipate these claims as well as all claims dependent on these claims, namely claims 2-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 25. Applicant therefore respectfully requests removal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for at least the above-discussed reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the amendments made herein do not add new matter and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

DATED this 30 day of November, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam D. Stevens', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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GENERAL TRANSMITTAL LETTER (FOR BOTH SMALL AND LARGE ENTITIES)

Applicant(s): Brad S. Perry
Docket No.: 11512.12
Application No.: 10/730,370
Filing Date: December 5, 2003
Examiner: Robert M. Timblin
Customer No.: 21,999
Group Art Unit: 2167
Confirmation No.: 2843

Invention: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MANAGING PROCESSES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

✓ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500843

✓ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

✓ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.



Signature

Dated: November 30, 2006

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